

## **“The Sermon on the Level - Part 2”**

### **Love Your Enemies**

**Luke 6:27-36**

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#### **I. Introduction**

- A. Ramón Navárez, the nineteenth-century Prime Minister of Spain, was dying and was asked by a priest, “Does your excellency forgive all his enemies?” He replied, “I don’t have to forgive my enemies; I’ve had them all shot.”
  - 1. I wonder, if given the opportunity, how many of us would have our enemies shot?
  - 2. Jesus in our text today makes it clear that those who follow Him are not only to be marked with love, but they are to love even their enemies (v. 27)
- B. Jesus had just said that His blessed disciples were poor, hungry, weeping, and hated.
  - 1. If you choose to live by eternal values, you will come into conflict with those who live by the world’s temporal values
  - 2. They will! Jesus said, “hate you” (v. 27), “curse you,” (v. 28), and “despitefully use you” (v. 29)
  - 3. When this happens, how do we respond?
    - a) With God’s supernatural love (Agape love)
    - b) Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you...by this shall all men know...” (John 13:34-35)
  - 4. In our text today, Jesus makes it clear that His followers and true disciples are to be marked by a supernatural love that includes even our enemies

#### **II. Love’s Manifestation (Luke 6:27-31)**

- A. Who is Jesus speaking to?
  - 1. “But I say unto you which hear...” (v. 27)
  - 2. Believers who can hear and will obey
- B. Jesus gives four commands, all in the present tense
  - 1. Love your enemies (v. 27)
    - a) Jesus clears up the Rabbinic perversion of Leviticus 19:18, “love thy neighbor as thyself.”
    - b) The Scribes and Pharisees had perverted God’s Law (Matthew 5)
      - 1) By omission
      - 2) By substitution
      - 3) By addition
    - c) “But I say unto you love your enemies” (v. 27)
    - d) What kind of love is Jesus commanding here?
      - 1) Not “storge” or a natural affection
      - 2) Not “eros” or romantic love
      - 3) Not “philia” or a friendship love
      - 4) It’s “agape,” a supernatural, divine love
        - a. Agape is not a natural love like the other three. It is not motivated by the merit of the one who is loved. It is a

deep, continuous, growing, and ever-giving love that comes from God, the Holy Spirit.

e) How are we to love our enemies?

1) By our deeds

- a. “Do good to them that hate you” (v. 27)
- b. “If your enemy is hungry, feed him: If he is thirsty; give him a drink” (Romans 12:20)
- c. (Proverbs 25:21)

2) By our words

- a. “Bless them that curse you” (v. 28)
- b. Love them and tell them the Gospel
- c. It is okay to warn them of the consequences of their sin

3) By our prayers

- a. “And pray for them which despitefully use you” (v. 28)
- b. How should we pray? Not like David, but like Jesus.
- c. Pray for their salvation
- d. (Luke 23:34)
- e. (Acts 7:59-60)
- f. *“If the cruel torture of crucifixion could not silence our Lord’s prayer for his enemies, what pain, pride, prejudice, or sloth could justify the silencing of ours?”* – John Stott
- g. Prayer purges the poison of anger and unforgiveness

C. Jesus now illustrates loving your enemies (vv. 29-30)

1. “And unto him that smiteth thee on one cheek offer also the other” (v. 29)

- a) Don’t misinterpret this illustration
- b) It’s having the right attitude and not seeking revenge
- c) Paul- Acts

2. “Whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either” (v. 29)

3. “Give to every man thar asketh of thee...” (v. 30)

- a) Again, be careful how you interpret these words
- b) “If Christians took literally this text there would soon be a class of saintly paupers, owning nothing, and another of prosperous idlers and thieves. It is not this that Jesus is seeking, but a readiness among his followers to give and give and give.” – Leon Morris
- c) Of course, in any given case, it may not be the way of love to give, but it is love that must decide whether we give or withhold, not a regard for our possessions.
- d) “Give” in Greek is a continuous tense
  - 1) Jesus is talking about the habitual attitude, not the occasional generous impulse
  - 2) (1 Peter 2:23)

D. Jesus now gives us the principle (v. 31)

1. This is known as “The Golden Rule”
2. In its negative form, the rule is pre-Christian
3. What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor
4. This is not the Gospel and “how to get to heaven”

### **III. Love's Explanation** (Luke 6:32-36)

- A. There is no credit for natural love (vv. 32-34)
  - 1. What makes you different?
  - 2. Does your life give any evidence of being regenerated and transformed by the Holy Spirit?
  - 3. "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5)
  - 4. The fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22)
- B. There is a great reward for supernatural love (vv. 35-36)
  - 1. "Your reward shall be great" (v. 35)
  - 2. "You will manifest the family likeness" (vv. 35-36)

### **IV. Conclusion**

- A. Are you doing good to those who hate you or are evil?
- B. Are you blessing those who curse you?
- C. Are you praying for those who mistreat you?
  - 1. This is an impossible life apart from the supernatural rebirth